

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
KMCO Explosion and Fire - Removal Polrep  
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI

**Subject:** POLREP #2  
Final (Draft)  
KMCO Explosion and Fire  
A6L6  
Crosby, TX

**To:** Ronnie Crossland, EPA R6

**From:** Gary Moore, OSC

**Date:** 5/10/2019

**Reporting Period:**

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A6L6	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	4/2/2019	<b>Start Date:</b>	4/2/2019
<b>Demob Date:</b>	4/5/2019	<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

On 4/2/2019 between 1100 and 1130 hours, the EPA became aware of an explosion and fire at the KMCO Inc. facility at 16503 Ramsey Road, Crosby, Harris County, TX 77532. The incident was reported by EPA personnel in the Houston area. Based upon the reports, the EPA dispatched OSC Loesel out of Houston and OSC Moore out of Dallas.

The incident was reported by KMCO representatives to the NRC (1241683) at approximately 1401 hrs. The report indicated that there was a leak in an isobutylene line that caused a fire in the facility.

The Harris County Fire Marshall indicated that the fire impacted an ethanol, methanol, methyl acrylate, isobutylene, and toluene tanks as well as a warehouse.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

KMCO INC.  
16503 Ramsey Road  
Crosby, Harris County, TX 77532  
Latitude: 29.75500  
Longitude: -95.053056

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The threat associated with the incident was the potential for releases from various hazardous material tanks as a result of an uncontrolled fire and possible impacts to residents and businesses surrounding the facility.

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The EPA initiated air monitoring support for the incident by using a roving handheld monitoring team as well as the use of the ASPECT Aircraft and TAGA Bus for additional monitoring and sampling activities. The ASPECT air monitoring detected the following constituents: 2-butene, acetone, ammonia, isobutylene, and isoprene. The TAGA had no detections above the TCEQ AMCVs for benzene, xylene, or toluene. The EPA roving team had 2 VOC detections of which one was at a location unrelated to the incident and the other was at the entry to the facility where response actions were being taken.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The fire was extinguished at approximately 1800 hours on 4/2/19. The company team will continue to address hot spots in the impacted areas as well as begin removing product and fire suppression water/foam from those areas. Additionally, the team will also ensure the containment of the off-site migration of fire

water into the road side ditch and begin collection activities. The company also utilized its contractor, Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH), to conduct roving air monitoring and air sampling activities.

**2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

The PRP for this event is KMCO, Inc.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

**2.2 Planning Section**

**2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

1. Continue handheld air monitoring around the site to insure protection of the public;
2. Insure that hot spots throughout the impacted area are extinguished to prevent flare-ups;
3. Begin removing product from impacted facility areas and into on-site tankage, frac tanks, and boxes;
4. Begin removing fire water from on-site and off-site drainage areas into on-site tankage and/or frac tanks;
5. Begin removing soil from impacted drainage pathways impacted by firefighting activities;

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

**2.2.2 Issues**

No issues at this time

**2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

**2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

**2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

KMCO, Inc.  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Harris County Pollution Control  
Environmental Protection Agency

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

**4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

**5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

**6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.